Vepco Applies For Rate Increase

Virginia Electric and Power Company has applied for a 7.8 per cent, $31.5 million increase in basic rate revenues as part of its 1974 annual review by the State Corporation Commission.

The proposed rates will be considered by the SCC at a hearing May 16.

In its application, the company pointed out that since its last rate case in 1972 "the continued increases in costs of furnishing electric service have prevented the company from earning the 8.56 per cent rate of return to which the Commission held it was entitled. As a result, the company's financial condition has not been restored to its former strength and its ability to attract capital on reasonable terms continues to be impaired.

"To remedy this serious threat to its financial integrity, the company undertook a two-step program." The first step, the 4.6 per cent surcharge filed in December, was designed to remedy the short-fall the company was experiencing in 1973 below the 8.56 per cent rate of return. "This would have represented," the company stated, "an aggregate increase of $18.5 million in revenues if it had been in effect during all of 1973."

The current application is the second step "and is designed to prevent a decline in the company's rate of return in 1974 below the level required by the method of determining rate of return adopted by the Commission in 1972. The application would provide a further rate increase of 7.8 per cent in basic rates. This would have represented an aggregate increase of $31.5 million in revenues if it had been in effect all of 1973.

"The company does not, in this case, request a higher rate of return on common equity than the 13 per cent approved by the Commission in 1972, even though the risk to its equity holders, and its cost of equity capital have increased since that case was decided. The rate of return to be produced was calculated strictly in accordance with the Commission's decision in 1972."

The application stated that the company must invest $579 million in its construction program in 1974, and of that amount some $500 million must be raised from the sale of securities. For the five years 1974-78 the total added investment will be $3.2 billion, and of this some $2.5 billion must be raised through the sale of securities in that period. Some $100 million or more of common stock will have to be sold in each of those five years.

Under the proposal, a residential customer using 750 kilowatt- hours per month during the winter and now receiving a bill of $18.06, excluding fossil fuel adjustment, would pay an additional $1.44. During the summer, a customer using 750 kilowatt-hours per month would pay $21.15 per month, an increase of $1.74. Customers using 600 kilowatt-hours or less per month pay the same rates during the winter and summer.

Working Parents May Be Able To Deduct Child Care Expenses, IRS Says

Richmond, Virginia--Virginia taxpayers who work full time may be entitled to a tax deduction for part of the cost of paying someone to care for their children, the Internal Revenue Service said today.

Mr. James P. Boyle, IRS District Director for Virginia, said generally parents can deduct up to $400 a month in child care expenses, but if a taxpayer's adjusted gross income exceeds $18,000, the maximum deduction decreases. Furthermore, there are several qualifications taxpayers must meet before they can claim any deductions for child care expenses.

"First," said Mr. Boyle, "both a husband and wife, must have been gainfully employed for at least three-quarters of the customary work week during the calendar month in which expenses were incurred. An unmarried person may be either gainfully employed or actively seeking employment. Gainful employment includes working for others, self-employment, and partnership. Volunteer work is not considered to be gainful employment.

"Second, a taxpayer must maintain a household that includes at least one child under 15 years of age in order to claim child care deductions. Taxpayers may not claim child care deductions for children 15 or older.

"Third, a taxpayer must show that child care expenditures were necessary in order to be gainfully employed.

"Fourth, a taxpayer may make payments for child care to anyone other than relatives (except cousins) or dependent members of the household.

"Finally, married taxpayers who want to claim child care deductions must file a joint return."

Several limitations affect the amount of deductions that may be taken, Mr. Boyle said.

For example, if a taxpayer's adjusted gross income (combined with the spouse's income in the case of married taxpayers) exceeds $18,000, the expenses for child care are reduced by one-half the amount over $18,000. Since employment-related expenses are computed on a monthly basis, any adjusted gross income over $18,000 may be divided by 24 to determine the monthly reduction.

Taxpayers whose adjusted gross incomes are $27,600 or more may not deduct child care expenses, since their income over $18,000 when divided by 24 exceeds the maximum monthly allowance of $400.

In addition, child care is not confined to services performed within the household. On services performed outside of the home, deductions are limited to $200 per month for one child, $300 for two children, and $400 a month for three or more children.

"Expenses for nursery school or day care for pre-school children may be included if paid to enable you to be gainfully employed," Mr. Boyle explained. "Benefits incident to the care, such as food and education, are not child care expenses, but if a payment covers incidental benefits that are inseparably a part of the care, the entire cost will ordinarily be considered for child care."

The IRS says expenses for child care services performed within the household may be combined with expenses for household duties, such as cooking, cleaning, etc., without appointment.

For further information on deductions for child care, taxpayers can obtain Publication 503, "Child Care and Disable Dependent Care," without charge from IRS offices.

278,199 Arrests In State In '73

RICHMOND- Arrests by the State Police clearing the courts during 1973 totalled 278,199, a substantial increase over the 248,364 of 1972, Colonel H. W. Burgess, the Department's Superintendent, announced today.

He said that 96.6 percent, or 268,677, involved the highway and that 95.3 percent, or 265,180, were for direct traffic offenses. Overall conviction percentage was 92.5.

Colonel Burgess gave as an example of an offense involving the highway, but not a direct traffic offense, being intoxicated or or adjacent to a public highway. There were 3,064 arrests for this offense and he considered this to be a factor in reducing 1972's toll of pedestrian deaths from 249 to 197 in 1973.

Speeding arrests led with 91,035 and reckless driving was next with 18,838. There were 18,867 operators' and chauffeurs' arrests and 15,329 for improper equipment.

Arrests for operating while intoxicated rose sharply from 3,884 in 1972 to 5,398. Here, Colonel Burgess said that the lowering of the presumptive level of blood alcohol from .15 to .10 and the use of the breath test as the final determination, effective all through the year, were largely responsible for the increase.

Fines, courts costs, overweight assessments and recovered property in State Police cases returned the equivalent of $14,567,141 to the taxpayers.

Average uniformed strength for the year was 1,048.

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Cataract Surgery Can Prevent Blindness

If you are 40 or older, you have a better than even chance of having some form of cataract, reports the Virginia Society for the Prevention of Blindness. That means that approximately 150,000 Virginia are affected by this eye disorder.

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness in the U.S.today, yet it is surgically treatable in an overwhelming majority of cases. In other words, most blindness due to cataract is unnecessary. The Society is launching an intensive informational campaign to apprise the public of the facts, so that vision loss from cataract will be minimized.

A cataract is the clouding of the normally clear lens within the eye, a process that blocks some or all of the light rays entering the eye. Although it most commonly occurs in the adult population, cataract can appear at any age - even at birth. Senile cataracts accounts for 70% of all cataracts.

Cataract first appears as a small opaque spot in some portion of the lens and may develop until the entire lens of the eye is affected. As clouding progresses, blurred vision may be experienced, and there may be double vision and "spots" before the eyes or dazzling may occur in bright light. In the event of any of these symptoms, an eye physicians should be consulted.

The cause of this eye condition is not known, but in most cases, there is a cure - surgery to remove the clouded lens. Surgical procedures are safe, and in 95 out of 100 cases, useful vision is restored. If you think you have cataracts, see your eye doctor now. Waiting may cause you unnecessary loss of sight.

The Virginia Society for the Prevention of Blindness is an affiliate of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, founded in 1908. As part of the Virginia Society's public education program, information on cataract is available free of charge. A recently produced film on the subject may be reserved, also with no charge. Please write: Prevent Blindness; P.O. Box 2020; Richmond, Virginia 23216.

Of Interest To Veterans

Va 1974 Dividends On GI Insurance

$303.8 million in VA insurance dividends will be paid to nearly 4 million veterans insured under World I and II government life insurance polcies during this year.

Increased dividends result chiefly from higher interest earnings in the National Service Life Insurance and United States Government Life Insurance funds.

They will be paid automatically on anniversary dates of polcies.

Dividend payments will continue throughout 1974 (on policy anniversary dates) on NSLI policies with V prefixed policy numbers, and USGLI policies with Kin front of numbers.

Last year 1297 million in insurance dividends, also a record, which were paid throughout the year to approximately 3.8 million veterans, NSLI policyholders received an average dividend of $72, compared to [illegible] USGLI policyholders.

Dividends vary from [illegible] dollars to several [illegible] dollars, depending [illegible] policy, age of the insu[illegible] age of policy.

At the close of 1973 [illegible] million veterans were [illegible] $27 billion worth of NSLI [illegible] 161,000 veterans were [illegible] for $685 million under [illegible] Insurance.

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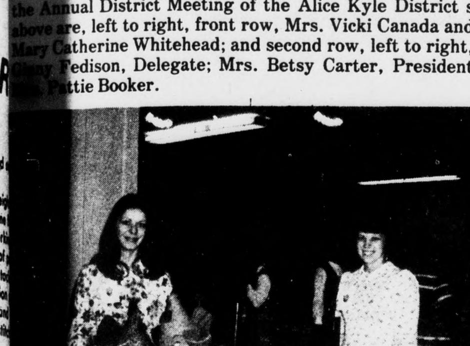
TIMES-VIRGINIAN
Appomattox, Virginia

Junior Woman's Club Represented At District Meeting

Members of the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club attending the Annual District Meeting of the Alice Kyle District shown above are, left to right, front row, Mrs. Vicki Canada and Mrs. Mary Catherine Whitehead; and second row, left to right, Mrs. Ginny Fedison, Delegate; Mrs. Betsy Carter, President; and Mrs. Pattie Booker.



Winners in District Arts and Crafts Contest shown above, left to right, from the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club were Mrs. Mary Catherine Whitehead, blue ribbon for crocheted doll bedspread, and Mrs. Pattie Booker, red ribbon for crafty creature entry.

Recipients of first place Department or Division awards at the District Meeting shown above, left to right, were Mrs. Vicki Canada, Leadership Development; Mrs. Anne Robinson, Cultural Heritage Division; and Mrs. Beverly Peoples, Conservation Department. Mrs. Ginny Fedison, far right, Club Report Chairman, is presenting the certificates.

The Annual Spring Meeting of the Alice Kyle District of the Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs was held Wed., March 13th, at Randolph Macon Women's College in Lynchburg. Representing the Appomattox Junior Women's Club, Inc. were Mrs. Betsy Carter, President; Mrs. Ginny Fedison, Delegate; and Mrs. Vicki Canada, Mrs. Mary Catherine Whitehead, and Mrs. Pattie Booker. District Officers for both General and Junior Women's Clubs were elected during the meeting.

Awards were presented to the Junior and General clubs during the business meeting in the various Depart. and Division areas.In the 26-40 member club area the Appomattox Jrs. were awarded 1st place honors and certificates in the **Conservation Department**-report written by Mrs. Beverly Peoples, Conservation Department Chairman; in **Leadership Development** - reported by Mrs. Vicki Canada, Recording Secretary and Membership Chairman; and the **Cultural Heritage Division** - reported by Mrs. Anne Robinson, Cultural Heritage Chairman. Honorable mention was also received for the **Craft Division** - reported by Mrs. Pattie Booker, Craft Chairman, and the **Health Division** - reported by Mrs. Ruby Ferguson, Health Chairman. Awards were also given during the meeting for the Community Improvement Projects of participating clubs. The Appomattox Juniors received a recognition pin, presented to the president, for having entered the program co-sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the Sears, Roebuck & Company.

During the Junior business meeting Mrs. Betsy Carter, President, and Mrs. Ruby Ferguson (in absentia), District vice-chairman on Home Life, were presented by Mrs. Logan Hubbard, District Junior Director, Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition for Meritorious Service on the Junior Director's Board.

The awards to the winners of the District Arts and Crafts contest held during the morning were announced during the luncheon. The Appomattox Juniors had two entrants this year and both won ribbons. Mrs. Mary Catherine Whitehead won a blue ribbon for her entry of a doll bedspread in the Small **Crocheting** classification; Mrs. Pattie Booker won a red ribbon for her entry of two stuffed hens in the **Crafty Creatures** classification. These ladies deserve a "pat on the back" for work well done!

Those attending the meeting felt it was a very rewarding day for the Appomattox Jr. Women's Club, and the recognition on the district level helped to make the many hours spent by all club members seem a little more worthwhile. Let's hope they continue to keep up the good work in our community.

CVPDC Plan Is Officially Adopted

Cont. from page 1

and Federal water quality objectives and regulations. Federal grants for waste treatment and collection projects which improve water quality are only available for projects consistent with a Federally approved Metropolitan/Regional Water Quality Management Plan, such as the one adopted by the CVPDC.

A public hearing was held in August on the Water Quality Management Plan and extensive changes were made after reviewing the testimony given. A final addendum was prepared and was approved by the Commission's Environmental Policy Committee and Water Resources Technical Committee. The Plan was adopted by the CVPDC in December.

On March 1st the Plan was sent to the State Water Control Board for review and, as required, another District-wide public hearing will be held on the Plan.

The CVPDC has no authority to implement its plans; it acts only in an advisory capacity. It is up to each local jurisdiction to follow the guidelines of the Water Quality Management Plan after they have adopted it.

Since water quality problems disregard political boundaries, it is essential to have a regional management plan which will guide jurisdictions in coordinated planning and avoid duplication of efforts.

WANT ADS GET RESULTS

School Board Urges Pre-School Registration

Cont. from page 1

[illegible] school census and he [illegible] the importance of not [illegible] a single child from age [illegible] to 19 in Appomattox County. Superintendent Walton reported on the finances of the [illegible] school and told board members that they are operating within the approved budget.

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PORK PICKIN'S

Appomattox Pork Producers

Appomattox and area Pork Producers will have a busy week this week. The South - Central Feeder Pig Association and The Piedmont Pork Producers will hold their annual meetings this week in Farmville. Mr. John L. Wilson will be nominated to serve a second term on the board of the Piedmont Pork Producers.

We will try to have a full report on the above meetings in next week's column.

On next Monday night the Appomattox Pork Producers will hold a joint meeting with the FFA and 4-H Clubs of the county in an effort to prepare them for the upcoming hog shows which will take place throughout the summer months.

Hog prices continue to fall lower and the Hog - Corn Ratio is now below 11. Hog prices have dropped about 45% since August of 1973 while feed prices have increased by about the same percentage. One realistic factor to the consumer is that, while live hog prices have shown a major decline, retail prices to the consumer have dropped only 6%. This should prove to the consumer without any doubt the farmer is not to blame for the prices paid on the retail level.

Calendar of Events

Market Hog Tele-Auction
March 18, 1974
Farmville Livestock Market
South Central Feeder Pig Assoc. Annual Meetings
March 19, 1974
7 p.m. - Farmville, Va.
Piedmont Pork Producer Association Annual Meeting
March 21, 1974 - 7 p.m.
Hotel Weyanoke
Farmville, Va.

PARKER HOUSE PORKIES
Yield: 8 Porkies

1 Pkg. (½ lb.)
Brown 'N Service Sausage
8 Parker House Rolls
Butter
8 green onions (optional)
Barbecue or chili sauce

Split each roll and spread with butter. Heat. Place sausage in a skillet and heat 3 minutes as directed on the package. Tuck a link in each hot roll along with an onion. Spoon a little barbecue sauce over each link and serve at once.

Easter Seals

Flue Cured Tobacco Growers Urged to Grow Full Quota

Under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell today urged all flue-cured tobacco producers to grow their full poundage under the marketing quotas which were increased 10 percent for 1974 to meet increasing demand around the world.

"Buying and export companies indicate there is a strong demand for increased cigarette production in foreign countries and this is an excellent opportunity for tobacco growers in Appomattox County to make considerably more net income by growing more tobacco to meet this demand," Mr. Campbell said.

The Under Secretary pointed out that exports of flue-cured tobacco from last May through November were nearly 20 percent higher than for the same months in 1972. And he said that the increased tobacco exports were a part of continued expansion in agricultural exports which hit an all-time high of $17.7 billion in 1973.

Also, he emphasized, "the buying companies have committed to Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz that they will be able to handle 10 million more pounds per week during 1974. These manufacturers and dealers have assured us that when the markets open in July, they will be able to process 85 million pounds of flue-cured tobacco a week." This is about 12 percent more than they processed per week last year.

In addition, the Under Secretary declared, flue-cured tobacco producers in Appomattox county and other parts of the belt have additional price support protection this year. Price supports under the 1974 program will be 83.3 cents per pound compared to 76.6 cents last year.

And growers need not be unduly concerned about fuel needed for tobacco production, he added. "Secretary Butz and the Federal Energy Office have assured farmers they will receive top priority when it comes to fuel allocations."

In a recent talk at the USDA's Agricultural Outlook Conference in Washington, FEO Administrator William E. Simon said, "gasoline, propane, butane, and residual fuel oils are being provided to agricultural users on a priority basis, supplying 100 percent of what they need."

"In view of these assurances, and in view of the very excellent opportunity that tobacco farmers in Appomattox county and other flue-cured areas have to increase their net farm income by meeting the increased demand, I want to urge all growers to produce their full poundage under the increased quotas for 1974.

"For tobacco growers not to produce this additional tobacco would be the same as the automobile industry manufacturing only seven million automobiles for a ten million car market," Mr. Campbell declared. "No American industry intentionally under-produces their market and tobacco growers should not under-produce their market."

World Series Film Available From the Lyn-Twins

The 1973 World Series film is available free of charge to any club, organization, school, church, or group that wishes to view it by calling the Lyn-Twins General Manager at (804) 846-0005, or mail your request to the Lynchburg Twins, P.O. Box 1001, Lynchburg, Virginia 24505.

The Lyn-Twins 1974 Tickets are now available for purchase at any Fidelity National Bank or at the Twins office.

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